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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Helmut D. LINK et al.

Serial No.: 10/814,783

Filing Date: April 1, 2004

For: CERVICAL INTERVERTEBRAL
PROSTHESIS

Examiner: Annette R. Reimers

Group Art Unit: 3732

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 & 1.98**

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98, Applicants submit for consideration in the above-identified application the documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08a/b. Copies of the documents are also submitted herewith. The Examiner is requested to make these documents of record.

The documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08a/b were cited in an International Search Report mailed on August 1, 2005, directed to a counterpart international application and have not been previously cited. A certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1) follows:

I hereby certify that each item of information was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted after receipt of a first Office Action on the merits but before mailing of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance. A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided above; accordingly; no fee is believed to be due.


Applicants would appreciate the Examiner initialing and returning the Form PTO/SB/08a/b, indicating that the information has been considered and made of record herein.

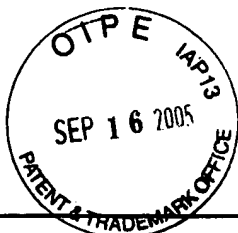
The information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98 is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a complete search has been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist; (iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the above information constitutes prior art to the subject invention.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal form is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief (such as payment of a fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (p)) is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petition and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing (246472006600).

Dated: September 16, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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ALTERNATIVE TO PTO/SB/08a/b (07-05)

Substitute for form 1449/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/814,783
				Filing Date	April 1, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Helmut D. Link
				Art Unit	3732
				Examiner Name	Annette Reimers
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	246472006600

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	1.	2003/204260-A1	10-30-2003	Ferree	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	2.	WO-00/66011-A	11-9-2000		abstract	
	3.	WO-02/09626-A	2-7-2002		abstract	
	4.	WO-02/45592-A	6-13-2002		abstract	
	5.	FR-2822674-A	10-4-2002		abstract	
	6.	WO-03/075804-A	9-18-2003		abstract	

*EXAMINER: Initial if information considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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